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ZACH MAY HAVE A REAL BACHELOR PARTY SOON {page 10}

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NEW YORK
Wednesday, June 27, 2012

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

SKIP THE BLENDER, GIVE TO OBAMA

President rolls out event registry, wants couples to ask for campaign donations in lieu of wedding gifts Would you ask at your wedding? New Yorkers divided {page 05}

News

No. 1 killer of teenage girls: Pregnancy

50,000 teen moms in developing world die each year Relief group calls for sex education {page 09}

Avoid a summer bummer easily

Don't let sunburns, bug bites, swimmer's ear and poison ivy spoil your fun {page 14}

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Summer. BBQ Tailgate

▶ Grillmasters handed out free smoked sausage and other meats from noon to 6 p.m. yesterday.

MILES DIXON/METRO

A BBQ tailgate of epic proportions in Union Square

Who said there's no such thing as a free lunch? New Yorkers got a smokin' surprise yesterday when an 80-foot long smoker and grill was parked at the north end of Union Square. Hosted by the History Channel, the crew manning the grill cooked up more than 2,000 pounds of sausage, which they gave out to hungry New Yorkers. The massive grill has the capacity to cook 1,000 hot dogs, 500 hamburgers or 200 16-ounce steaks at one time. METRO/DB

Expanding subway Wi-Fi

NEW YORK. You'll soon be able to surf the Web on your smartphone at six new subway stations this summer. According to the MTA, a company called Transit Wireless will add free Wi-Fi to subway stations in Manhattan. The stops will be in Chelsea, along 14th Street and 23rd Street, including on the A, C, E, 1, 2, 3, F, M and L lines. METRO/AB

Nora Ephron dies at 71

NEW YORK. Writer and film director Nora Ephron, known for work on movies such as "When Harry Met Sally," died in New York last night at the age of 71, according to media reports. Ephron, who died of leukemia, got her start as a journalist at the New York Post.

REUTERS

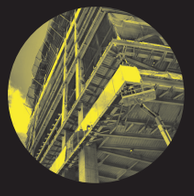
In the news

Baby saved from J train

A good Samaritan jumped onto the tracks of an oncoming J train yesterday to save a 1-year-old baby boy whose stroller had been blown onto the tracks by a sudden gust of wind. The unknown man jumped onto the tracks at 12:45 p.m. and pulled the baby up to safety just moments before a J train rumbled into the Van Siclen Avenue station in Brooklyn, according to the New York Daily News.

METRO/CB

In the news



Worker impaled

A construction worker was impaled when he fell and landed on a piece of metal at the World Trade Center site yesterday. According to the FDNY, the 37-year-old man was working at 4 WTC when he lost his footing and fell about 4 feet before making impact with a rebar. The metal bar punctured the side of his stomach. He is expected to survive.

METRO/CG

Uptown congressional battle plays out in Harlem

Can 'the lion of Harlem' hold onto his seat in Congress? US Rep. Charlie Rangel makes the fight of his political career in primary race

U.S. Rep. Charles Rangel was in the battle of his 41-year political career last night, as he fought to hold onto the House of Representatives seat that's been his since 1971.

Election results were not available as of press time.

Rangel's district, which includes Harlem and Washington Heights, has changed over the years through redistricting, and has an increased Latino population. Rangel faced a strong challenge by state Sen. Adriano Espaillat, who, if he won, would be the first Dominican-American elected to Congress.

The other opponent was Clyde Williams, a former White House staffer for former president Bill Clinton.

Rangel faced criticism after being censured in 2010 for ethics violations. He was accused of not paying all income taxes or reporting personal income accurately. He was also accused of improperly leasing rent-stabilized apartments in Harlem.

After this, his power — especially after he stepped down as chairman of the influential House Ways and Means Committee — was diluted, said David Birdsell, dean of Baruch College's School of Public Affairs.

> **"When he was chairman of Ways and Means, he ruled the world."**
> DAVID BIRDSELL

"(His) wings (were) very much clipped by the ethics action," Birdsell said.

Birdsell said that Rangel's problems threatened to finally sweep him under: He was censured by the House, the district changed, and he has health problems.

But the longtime representative still maintains a strong base of support throughout the years.

"He's delivered for his base for 40 years," said Fordham University political science professor Christina Greer.

ALISON BOWEN
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A GOP target come November?

Should Rangel win, he'll likely be a target for Republicans as November approaches, Birdsell said.

"Any ethics-tainted member of the House is going to be a talking point for the GOP," he said. "On the national stage, it's probably better for Democrats not to have him around."

And the "lion" might not have as much roar as he did before.

"He was a fiery and effective speaker during his heyday," Birdsell said. "I think it's safe to say that that's no longer the case."

Still, Greer said, he knows the halls of Congress.

"He actually knows how to get things done. He knows how to pass a bill," she said. "There's something to be said about seniority."

Memory lane

Rangel was first elected to Congress in 1971. Here's how much life has changed since:

- In 1971, Richard Nixon was president and the U.S. was still entangled in the Vietnam War.
- The average monthly rent in the U.S. was $105. Yes, you read that correctly.
- Walt Disney World opened in October 1971.

- The original World Trade Center was under construction, but would not officially open until 1973.
- The median household income was about $9,000 (adjusted to current dollars).
- The New York Times began publishing the Pentagon Papers that year.
- A gallon of gas cost an average of 40 cents, and a U.S. postage stamp was a mere 8 cents.
- Things like HBO, "Saturday Night Live" and People magazine did not exist.

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Geese fans flock to mayor's

UPPER EAST SIDE. Members of GooseWatch NYC are planning a rally tonight outside Mayor Michael Bloomberg's Upper East Side mansion.

The group's 500 members are at the ready to witness and document when geese are culled from city parks. Federal wildlife agents have removed and killed hundreds of geese in the city because they say the birds pose a threat to planes landing and taking from LaGuardia and JFK airports.

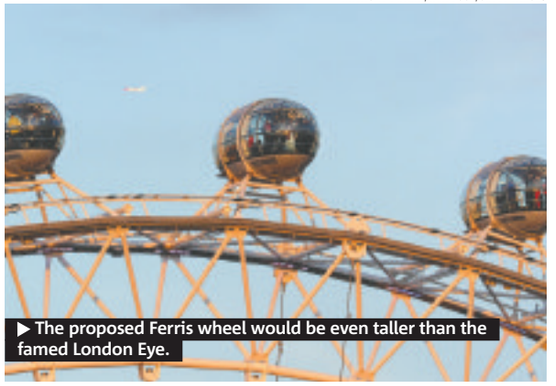
For the fourth summer in a row, the city has entered a contract with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, to allow the geese to be removed.

The group, started by Park Slope resident David Karopkin, says they will protest Bloomberg's public support for the geese killings, as well as demand more transparency about where and when future roundups will be.

The rally will be from 6 to 8 tonight outside the East 79th Street mansion. **METRO/CB**

City in talks for giant Ferris wheel on Staten Island

ANTHONY DEVLIN/WPA POOL/GETTY IMAGES



▶ The proposed Ferris wheel would be even taller than the famed London Eye.

Could something similar to the London Eye be coming to New York?

Parking lots on Staten Island near the ferry terminal may become the home of a Ferris wheel bigger than the London Eye, according to a person familiar with the potential deal.

A bid from New York's Plaza Capital Group Management to build the attraction leads four other proposals to develop the area in the borough, said a person briefed on the matter who wasn't authorized to speak about it. The other four bids, which proposed mixes of office and commercial space, are far behind the wheel idea, the person said. The news was reported earlier by The Staten Island Advance.

The New York City Economic Development Corp. last year asked developers for ideas on developing two parcels on Staten Island's St. George waterfront, which has missed out on the "huge opportunity" of New York City's 8 million residents, according to the agency. About 70,000 commuters pass through the ferry terminal daily.

"It's the greatest thing that has been proposed for Staten Island, especially on the waterfront."
JAMES MOLINARO, STATEN ISLAND BOROUGH PRESIDENT

"It's the greatest thing that has been proposed for Staten Island, especially on the waterfront," James Molinaro, the borough president, said in a telephone interview. "This could landmark us. We have 2 million tourists a year on the ferry, so we have a built-in audience to use it, and it's a different audience every day. Once you can attract them off that boat, you got them here."

Meir Laufer, the chief executive officer of Plaza, didn't immediately return a telephone call and e-mail seeking comment. **BLOOMBERG**

Bigger than the London Eye

At a proposed height of 600 feet, the Ferris wheel would be bigger than the London Eye, on the South bank of the Thames.

The Eye is the world's tallest cantilevered observation wheel at nearly 443 feet high, and provides "unrivalled views" of the city to 10,000 visitors a day. The wheel's capsules travel at 0.6 miles per hour.

The New York City Council would need to approve any project.

Julie Wood, a spokeswoman for Mayor Michael Bloomberg, confirmed that the city has heard from several companies interested in developing the land. **BLOOMBERG**

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NYC Parks

City of New York Parks & Recreation
Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor
Adrian Benepe, Commissioner

President says your wedding day guests should give to him

Obama wants supporters to give him cash in place of wedding gifts on their big day Too tacky? One NY wedding planner says no, but Queens bride disagrees

GETTY IMAGES

▶ New York wedding planner Sarah Pease approves of the gesture, but warns couples should also give their guests the option of a different gift — or be prepared to receive no gifts at all.

Who needs a new set of crystal wine glasses? Instead of Pottery Barn, President Barack Obama wants engaged couples to register for donations toward his fall re-election campaign.

Word is quickly spreading of the Obama Event Registry — the President's newest fundraising initiative that asks supporters to collect campaign contributions to help keep him in office in lieu of birthday, anniversary or wedding gifts.

"It's a great way to support the President on your big day," the announcement reads on BarackObama.com. "Plus, it's a gift that we can all appreciate—and goes a lot further than a gravy bowl."

"For all I know, my wedding gifts could be going towards free bumper stickers and address labels for strangers."
ANGELINA TATARA

The unconventional tactic has both political pundits and brides-to-be buzzing, with many wondering if such a wedding-day request is appropriate.

"I wouldn't consider it, and I'm a Democrat who supports Obama," Queens bride Angelina Tatara told Metro. "Not only would the request potentially offend people, I don't believe politics belong at a wedding."

But New York City-based wedding planner and owner of Brilliant Event Planning Sarah Pease disagrees.

While this is the first time she has seen a politician make such a request, it's not necessarily in poor taste for a couple to make the request of their guests, she said.

"I don't know many couples who have a desperate need for gravy boats, so if what they do feel passionate about is a political cause, that's a sign of the times," Pease said.

CASSANDRA GARRISON
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He's strapped for cash?

Just days after his campaign rolled out the Obama Event Registry, the President sent a desperate e-mail out to supporters yesterday, asking for more money.

Obama claimed he will soon be outspent by Republican opponent Mitt Romney and pleaded for as little as $3 donations.

While conservative super PACs are expected to bring in more money than liberal super PACs by November, Obama is significantly in the lead with tracked donations so far: $255.2 million compared to Romney's $120.6 million, according to Federal Election Commission figures from May 2012. **METRO/CG**

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"Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families."

News in brief

US charges dozens in massive hacking sting

NEW YORK. Law enforcement officials in New York were expected last night to announce charges against dozens of people in an international sting involving online financial fraud and stolen credit card accounts, a person familiar with the matter said.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation in New York, which headed the probe, had been monitoring online forums where people illegally traded credit card information, according to the source, who asked not to be identified.

Three people have been arrested in the New York area, the source said. Only Joshua Hicks has so far been publicly identified. **REUTERS**

Home prices up for third straight month

NEW YORK. U.S. home prices picked up in April for the third month in a row, the latest indication that a recovery in the housing market is gaining traction.

But in a sign of the struggles still facing the broader economy, separate data yesterday showed consumer confidence fell to its lowest level in five months in June as Americans' expectations on the economy soured.

The S&P/Case Shiller composite index of 20 metropolitan areas gained 0.7 percent on a seasonally adjusted basis, topping economists' expectations for a 0.4 percent gain. **REUTERS**

Obama celebrates major win as court backs EPA's greenhouse gas rules

GETTY IMAGES

A U.S. appeals court yesterday upheld the first-ever U.S. proposed rules governing heat-trapping greenhouse gases, clearing a path for sweeping regulations affecting vehicles, coal-burning power plants and other industrial facilities.

Handing a setback to industry and a victory to the Obama administration, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia unanimously ruled the Environmental Protection Agency's finding that carbon dioxide is a public danger and the decision to set limits for emissions from cars and light trucks were "neither arbitrary nor capricious."

The ruling, which addresses four separate lawsuits, upholds the underpinnings of the Obama administration's push to regulate carbon dioxide emissions, and is a rebuke to a major push by heavy industries including electric utilities, coal miners and states like Texas to block the EPA's path.

In the 82-page ruling, the three-judge panel also found that the EPA's interpretation of the Clean Air Act to regulate carbon dioxide regulations is "unambiguously correct."

The court also said it lacked jurisdiction to review the timing and scope of greenhouse gas rules that affect stationary sources like new coal-burning power plants and other large industrial sources. **REUTERS**

Solar panel makers face hard times

Solar panel manufacturers face three more years of tough conditions until the market shuts down excess production capacity, according to a new report issued yesterday by renewable power group GTM Research. Production capacity for photovoltaic solar panels this year stands at 59 gigawatts, about double the 30 gigawatts expected to be sold into the global market, according to GTM analyst Shyam Mehta. **REUTERS**

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$2.50	1841 Quarter Eagle Liberty Head	Up To	$5,000
$3.00	1854D	Up To	$10.500
$5.00	1795 Small Eagle	Up To	$52.000
$5.00	1838D	Up To	$10,500
$5.00	1842C Small Date, 1861D, 1864S	Up To	$6,500
$5.00	1909O, 1929	Up To	$6,500
$10.00	1793 13 Leaves Below Eagle, 1796 9 Leaves Below Eagle	Up To	$20,500
$10.00	18590, 1863S, 1875	Up To	$8,000
$20.00	1856O, 1 854O, 1860O, 1861S, 1870CC, 1886, 1891	Up To	$10,500

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A Note Regarding the Up To Prices listed in this Ad

The condition and rarity of an item determines its price. If an item is in excellent condition and very rare it might be worth the up to price, or even more. However, if an item is in poor condition, the value will be lower. For example, a 1927 S Quarter could be worth $7,000 in new condition or less than $20 in poor condition. The up to price reflects items of exceptional quality and rarity. Although it is unlikely you will have these items due to their extreme rarity, feel free to bring whatever items you may have and we will evaluate them free of charge.

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Hunter tells of split as book goes on sale

NEW YORK. Rielle Hunter said yesterday — the same day her tell-all memoir was released — that she is no longer in a relationship with former Senator John Edwards.

Hunter, 48, whose affair with Edwards wrecked his presidential ambitions, told ABC's "Good Morning America" she and Edwards had split but would continue to see each other as they share parenting duties of their now 4-year-old daughter, Frances Quinn Hunter. **REUTERS**

Facebook gets first woman board member

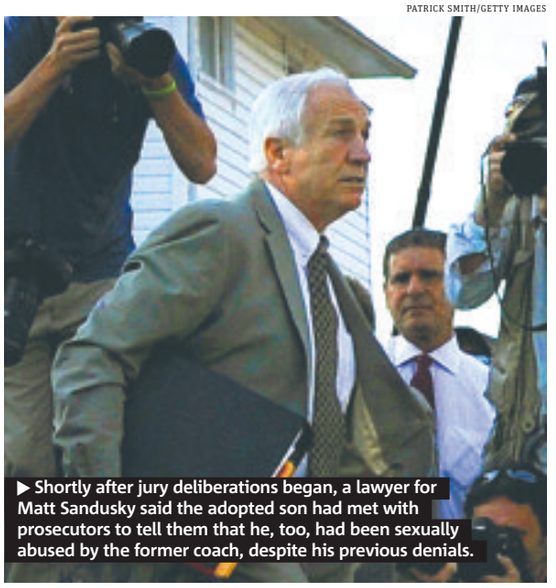
SAN FRANCISCO. Facebook Inc. named Chief Operating Officer Sheryl Sandberg a director yesterday, elevating the first woman to a board that includes seven men.

For years one of the most vocal critics of the gender imbalance in Silicon Valley's executive ranks, Sandberg, 42, joined Facebook in 2008 and played a central role in guiding the social networking company to its $16 billion IPO in May.

Her promotion comes as Facebook seeks to cultivate a more mature image as opposed to the college dorm-room startup reputation that has dogged the company since Harvard dropout Mark Zuckerberg founded it in 2004. **REUTERS**

Tape of Sandusky son alleging abuse released

PATRICK SMITH/GETTY IMAGES



▶ Shortly after jury deliberations began, a lawyer for Matt Sandusky said the adopted son had met with prosecutors to tell them that he, too, had been sexually abused by the former coach, despite his previous denials.

Jerry Sandusky's adult adopted son told police he had lied to a grand jury when he denied being sexually abused by the former Penn State University assistant football coach and said he was coming forward so his family would know the truth, according to a tape of his police interview aired by NBC yesterday.

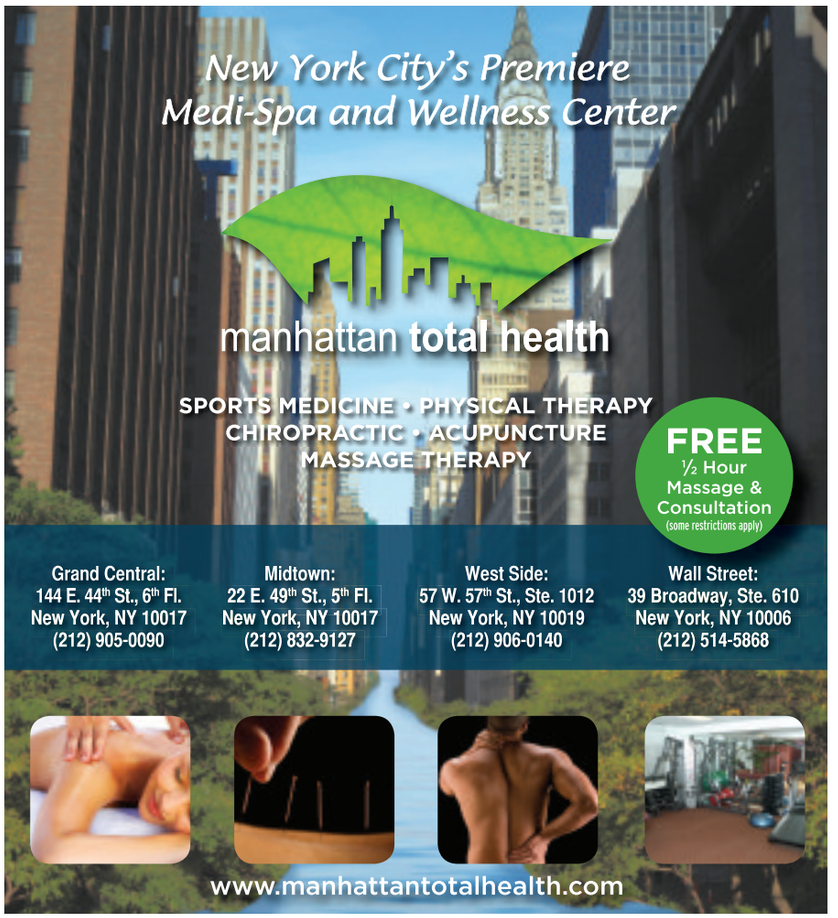
Matt Sandusky, 33, said in the interview with police in Pennsylvania he was molested by Jerry Sandusky, 68, off and on from ages 8 to 15 and tried to cope by escaping from his new family's home and attempting to commit suicide.

Jerry Sandusky was convicted in a closely watched trial by a jury in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania, last Friday on 45 child sex abuse charges linked to the sexual abuse of 10 boys over a 15-year period, sometimes at Penn State facilities.

"I know that I really wanted to die at that point in time."
MATT SANDUSKY, WHO WAS ADOPTED AT AGE 18 BY JERRY SANDUSKY AND HIS WIFE DOTTIE AFTER LIVING WITH THEM AS A FOSTER CHILD, TOLD POLICE

Jerry Sandusky is "not a beaten man. He is pacing a cell right now, being held in solitary confinement, wanting to get out and get his story out and continue to defend himself," his attorney Karl Rominger told NBC.

"I don't think Jerry believes he has anything to feel sorry for. At this point, he maintains his innocence adamantly," Rominger said. **REUTERS**



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Pregnancy the No. 1 killer of teen girls

Teenage pregnancy is responsible for more than a million deaths each year in the developing world, according to a new report from Save the Children.

The relief group found that 50,000 teenage mothers die during childbirth, making it the leading cause of death for this age group worldwide, and a further 79,000 die from related causes. The group estimates that 900,000 babies die as a result of being born to teenage parents, as they are more likely to suffer disease or malnourishment.

"The issue of children having children — and dying because their bodies are too immature to deliver the baby — is a global scandal," said Save the Children's Chief Executive, Justin Forsyth. "This is a tragedy not just for those girls, but also for their children: Babies are 60 percent more likely to die if their mother is under 18."

The report calls for girls to receive sex education from the age of 10 in developing countries, despite cultural barriers. One of the key recommendations is that young mothers allow two years between pregnancies.

"Where we can reach young girls in time, education does have an impact," Save the Children Advocacy Officer Kathryn Rawe told Metro. General schooling also made a crucial difference — with girls in developing countries 20 percent more likely to use contraception if they completed secondary school.

Ahead of the London Summit on Family Planning in July, the group are calling for an additional $4 billion investment to reach the 222 million women who have no access to contraception or family planning services.

British International Development Secretary Andrew Mitchell said, "It is a shocking fact that pregnancy can be a death sentence for many girls in the developing world." He said the summit aims to "cut in half the number of girls and women who want contraception but are unable to access it." METRO WORLD NEWS

▶ At 9 months pregnant

Gorma Farmah, 13, lives with her mother in the rural village in Bong County, Liberia. "My boyfriend is 16 and I was 12. He abandoned me as soon as I got pregnant. He tried to deny that the baby was his and rejected me. I have no idea how I will make money to look after my child. ... I am at school now in Grade 5, but I think I will need to drop out to look after my baby. Before becoming pregnant, I had no idea what a condom or contraceptive pill was or that I could prevent myself from becoming pregnant."

UN: 'Bath salts a global epidemic'

Psychoactive legal drugs such as bath salts have become a worldwide phenomenon, according to the U.N.'s global drugs body. The substances have been linked to horrific crimes such as "Miami Zombie" Rudy Eugene, who ate a homeless man's face in May while reportedly under the influence of bath salts.

The 2012 World Drug Report published by the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime found that "numerous countries in all regions, particularly Europe, North America and Oceania, reported the use of such substances as an emerging trend in 2010."

20%
In the U.S., more than 20 percent of people over 12 have used a legal psychoactive, the second most common controlled substance after cannabis.

"The synthetic drug market is a very big, growing sector that is difficult to control," UNODC spokeswoman Preeta Bannerjee told Metro. Despite efforts to ban new legal drugs, "these substances only need tiny changes to their chemistry to avoid control."

Substances such as MDPV — sometimes known as bath salts — and Mephedrone have become notorious following recent horror stories such as the "Miami Zombie." "The most dangerous characteristic is variable potency, making it easier to overdose," Dr. Adam Winstock, addiction medicine specialist and author of the Global Drugs Survey, an independent drug-use data agency, told Metro. He called for consumer protection through proper labeling of the legal substances, which can be bought from many convenience stores in the US. METRO WORLD NEWS

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THE WORD

Metro's **Monica Weymouth** shares her take on the world of gossip @monicaatmetro monica.weymouth@metro.us

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

John Stamos wants to settle down — really

John Stamos has a reputation as a smooth-talking party boy, but the actor insists this isn't the case.

"I try not to get trapped into everybody's image of who they think I am or who I should be," he tells Celebuzz. "I'm a guy that wants to be in a relationship and should be in a relationship. Sometimes I'm afraid of it because I don't want to let people down. You don't want to disappoint people."

This guy occupied Uncle Jesse's leather pants for the better part of the '90s. He can't possibly tell us that there is not an army of twentysomethings lining up to look in his sparkly green eyes and be disappointed. Or can he?

"You think I'm in New York, playing around. I sometimes feel the responsibility to be that guy," says Stamos, who is in the city shooting a film when not perfecting his sensitive, misunderstood act. "[But] I've been in New York for five weeks now, and I've gone to bed by myself."

John Stamos, did you just use this page to send out your bat signal of a booty call? We're truly honored.

▶ Attention New York: John Stamos is lonely, and doesn't usually do this type of thing.

The feed ...

▶ **Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.**

Today, Kelly Clarkson is enjoying some time off, Tom Arnold is counting it, Oprah Winfrey is not considering a career change and Garry Shandling isn't expecting any close encounters.

@kelly_clarkson
I'm having the best vacation ever in Ireland! Just bought a Polaroid camera and having way too much fun!

@TomArnold
Flying over Iowa. Does this count as a visit with my dad?

@Oprah
could I be a nun? Ahhh a little late for that now! But even so, NOT my calling.

@GarryShandling
No one is going to land here from another planet. They know that all we want is a bail out. We're an embarrassment to the universe.

Clarkson

Galifianakis set to tie the knot

Zach Galifianakis is making it official with long-term girlfriend **Quinn Lundberg** this summer. After a quiet engagement, the couple set a date for Aug. 11, reports Celebuzz. The actor is, apparently, aware that his 29-year-old ballerina fiancee is a little out of his league. "Zach included a drawing of himself and his bride-to-be [with the invitation]. He made sure he looked like a little troll, while Quinn is a stunning tall blonde princess," a source tells the site.

As for their registry, it's very Hollywood PC with charity donations — and Anthropologie sheet sets, because they are human, after all.

▶ Galifianakis

Louis CK isn't sorry

Louis C.K.'s tweets about Sarah Palin may have lost him a gig hosting the White House Correspondents' Dinner, but the comedian has no regrets."It's caused me some problems that I wrote s— about her," C.K. admitted while promoting his series for FX, "Louis," on the "Today" show Monday. "But … why not, man? She's just a person. I don't think she's some sacred person."

We're still amazed that someone considered Louis C.K. — possibly the only person willing to mine child abuse for any overlooked laughs — for a gig at the White House. Short of maybe Cookie Monster, there's no one who observes fewer societal norms.

Talking points

Kutcher and Kunis out and about

Ashton Kutcher and **Mila Kunis** were spotted out at another dinner together, this time hitting up the chic Giorgio Baldi in Los Angeles, according to TMZ. The pair was spotted sneaking out the back door and into the back of a waiting town car, and Kunis was wearing a rather slinky little black dress. But despite the regular dinner dates and a trip out of town together in April, the actress insists that she and Kutcher are just friends.

Tatum denies stealing moves

Channing Tatum is laughing off allegations from two of his former stripping colleagues that he'd stolen their moves for "Magic Mike," his new film about male exotic dancers. "It's stripping. I don't think anybody has copyrighted any of the moves, and if so I'd be shocked," Tatum tells Hollyscoop. "This movie has nothing factual in it other than I was a 19-year-old kid going into this world. Everything is fictional."

Get well soon, 50 Cent!

Rapper **50 Cent** was hospitalized in New York on Tuesday after sustaining injuries in a car accident on the Long Island Expressway. A report on the rapper's website claims his SUV was read-ended by a Mack truck, causing it to nearly flip over. 50 Cent "was taken to New York Hospital Queens where he was treated for minor neck and back injuries," his rep tells the New York Daily News. "He was released this morning and is doing fine."

▶ 50 Cent

New guy for the 'New Girl'

More than six months after her separation from husband **Ben Gibbard**, it looks like **Zooey Deschanel** is ready for romance again, as she was spotted at the "Magic Mike" premiere after-party with screenwriter **Jamie Linden**, according to Us Weekly. "Jamie's a really nice guy," a source says. "He's funny and a little geeky. He's into her." And apparently she's into him, as the couple held hands for most of the party, sources say.

What we really, really want

1 **Adrien Brody** was wearing the hell out of this suit at Milan Fashion Week yesterday.

2 **Cillian Murphy** and his icy zombie eyes were at the "Red Lights" premiere in New York Monday night.

3 **Ringo Starr** was keeping the peace at a gallery exhibit of his pop art Monday in New York.

4 People of the world: Yesterday, **The Spice Girls** hosted a press conference in London to announce "Viva Forever," a new musical based on their songs.

5 **Blake Lively** raised the bombshell bar at the "Savages" premiere in Hollywood Monday night.

1: VITTORIO ZUNINO CELOTTO/GETTY IMAGES
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LL Cool J wants you to make music together

The rap mogul debuts new Google Docs-meets-Pro Tools software that allows artists to connect and compose music from anywhere in the world

ANDY KROPA/GETTY IMAGES

▶ LL Cool J demonstrates live digital music collaboration with his new software, My Connect Studio.

LL Cool J's dream came to fruition last week with the release of his new software, Future Sounds My Connect Studio, a Google Docs-meets-Pro Tools software that allows any two artists in the world to create professional-quality tracks together live.

The rapper said at the software's introductory press conference last week that he wanted to use the Internet to break down the walls that had previously made recording music difficult. Traditional studios, he said, cost too much time and money, and digital collaboration was limited to unwieldy back-and-forth e-mails between him and his producer.

"I want to connect musicians everywhere so there's no limitations, there's no barriers to them connecting with each other," LL Cool J said.

My Connect Studio comes from Boomdizzle, a social media site where musicians can collaborate, rate each other's music and publish tracks to iTunes, which LL Cool J cofounded in 2008. Sony then integrated My Connect Studio as part of its VAIO E14P laptop. The software also interacts with Facebook and uses Microsoft Cloud hosting.

Would the rapper have used My Connect Studio as an up-and-coming artist?

"There's no way I would let this opportunity pass me by, you know what I'm saying?" LL Cool J told Metro. "I'd use it for everything it had and try to make the best music I can make, let the chips fall where they may after that."

However, My Connect Studio is not without its limits. Currently, the software is PC-exclusive and only available through Sony's VAIO laptop, although LL Cool J said that a Mac version of the software was in the making, as well as mobile and tablet forms. Only two artists can collaborate in one session at a time, but LL Cool J said that project engineers were working to enable more people to work together live.

LL Cool J said that the use of the software would be free in the initial release period, and eventually users would either subscribe or utilize a pay-as-you-go alternative by the hour. Sony calls the 12-month subscription (with 10 hours of recording per month) included in the bundle a "$75 value" on its website.

A new album?

LL Cool J also coyly revealed that he's been working on a new album, some of which will be recorded using My Connect Studio.

▶ "I'm gonna do a little bit of the album on the 'Studio' and make sure that it's official," he said with a smile. "As a matter of fact, I started on my album, too. It's authentic hip-hop. It's the business."

KILLIAN YOUNG
letters@metro.us

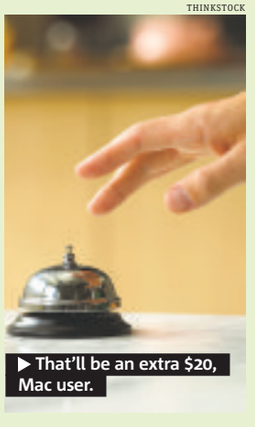
Mashable

Orbitz shows Mac users pricier results than PC users

Mac users don't just pay more for their computer than their PC counterparts, they also pay more for hotel rooms when the shop on Orbitz, according to a report.

Orbitz's data found that Mac users spend 30 percent more on hotel rooms, so the company is starting to show them more expensive rooms, according to The Wall Street Journal. Orbitz could not be reached for comment, but "Orbitz executives confirmed that the company is experimenting with showing different hotel offers to Mac and PC visitors," the WSJ reported. The company added that it isn't showing the same room to different users at different prices.

THINKSTOCK



▶ That'll be an extra $20, Mac user.

Research showed that Mac users spent $20 to $30 more per night on hotel rooms than PC owners. Mac users were also 40 percent more likely to book a four or five-star hotel. Orbitz confirmed the data in October and then began working the information into search results.

Testing the data, The WSJ found a Mac search for a hotel in Miami Beach for two nights in July showed pricier hotels on the first page of results. "Overall, hotels on the first page of the Mac search were about 11 percent more expensive than they were on the PC," the article states.

TODD WASSERMAN FOR Mashable
The Social Media Guide

3 Hot trends at the International Beauty Show

We asked Dana Lupton, who oversaw the 2012 expo, for her input on some of the coolest beauty fads

Trend No. 1

Hair chalk

The latest craze in temporary hair color easily washes out, so it's perfect when you're looking for a no-fuss dramatic shift. Just rub it on and mist with hair spray. "That's definitely one of the new buzz things that's going on," says Lupton.

Individual Hair Color Chalk, $8, www.haircolorchalk.com

Trend No. 2

Natural hair care

"People are worrying about what they're putting in their hair," Lupton says. "We're seeing people becoming more green and selective about the types of things that they'll use, and companies are answering to that." One line we like is Yarok: a totally vegan, botanical collection free of alcohol, parabens, sulfates and cruelty.

Feed Your Ends leave-in conditioner, $23, www.yarokhair.com

Trend No. 3

Nail appliques

Forget spending extra time at the salon while your manicurist paints on tiny flowers or polka dots: Stick-on designs are the way of the future. "It's all about the bells and whistles that people are used to," Lupton says. "Nail care is an explosive vertical market right now in the beauty world."

One celeb fan is Christina Aguilera, who was spotted wearing Dashing Diva's DesignFX on her digits this season on "The Voice."

Available at Dashing Diva and other salons, $35 for a natural manicure, $45 with gel

MEREDITH ENGEL
meredith.engel@metro.us

TV watch list

'Hollywood Exes'

REALITY. Former wives of famous men — including the exes of Will Smith, Prince, Eddie Murphy, R. Kelly and Jose Canseco — live fabulous lives while searching for the next famous man to put a ring on it. **Series premiere, 9 p.m., VH1**

'Final Witness'

DRAMA. This seven-episode drama recounts the final moments of the victims in brutal murder cases. The first episode, recalling the killing of Penny Caffey and her sons in 2008, is narrated by Penny from beyond the grave. These scripted scenes are interspersed with real-life first-person interviews. **Series premiere, 10 p.m., ABC**

'The Real World: St. Thomas'

REALITY. Different city, same hot tub puke fest. **Season premiere, 10 p.m., MTV**

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With summer officially under way, here are handy seasonal tips for avoiding and taking care of some common warm weather illnesses, injuries and conditions.

Swimmer's ear

Swimmer's ear is an infection of the outer ear canal. Water becomes trapped in the ear and bacteria overgrow, causing a painful inflammation. Try to get all the water out of your ears after swimming, and consult your physician ASAP if you develop ear pain or a discharge from the ear.

DIGITAL VISION

▶ Stay safe during your summer travels.

Bug and tick bites

Bug and tick bites can cause summer rashes, and in the case of a deer tick bite, Lyme disease. Most insect bites are more annoying than harmful, and the itching can be managed with over-the-counter antihistamines. Don't scratch, as bites can become infected from breaks in the skin, requiring antibiotics. Following any exposure to a wooded or grassy area, inspect yourself and pets for possible tick bites. Deer ticks are tiny and may be hard to spot, so look carefully. Lyme disease can result in a circular red rash that looks like a bull's-eye, but only in half the cases; any round, blotchy, red rash in summertime should be evaluated. Lyme disease can be cured with antibiotics.

Sunburn

Sunburn results from an overexposure of skin to the sun's ultraviolet rays. Regularly and frequently apply sunscreen, and wear a hat whenever you will be out in the sun — or even on an extended car trip. The pain of sunburn can be treated with aspirin or ibuprofen, as well as moisturizers. Avoid sunburns at all costs — they increase your future risk of skin cancer and prematurely age your skin.

Poison ivy

Poison ivy is a toxic plant, the leaves of which are covered with an oil that causes an itchy, red, blistering rash of varying severity, depending on an individual's sensitivity to exposure. The first step in managing poison ivy is avoiding it, so be familiar with its appearance if you are planning outdoor activities in wooded areas. If you or a family member develops an itchy rash after an outing, make sure you wash all skin surfaces, including under fingernails, as well as launder all clothing and shoes with soap and water to remove the irritating oils and prevent further spread. Antihistamines and hydrocortisone cream can be used to treat the itch — but if the poison ivy is widespread or severe, a prescription from your doctor for oral anti-inflammatory steroids may be indicated.

Heat illness

Heat illness is a spectrum of conditions ranging from mild symptoms from heat exhaustion to heat stroke, in which there is a failure of your body's ability to regulate temperature, causing damage to your cardiovascular and central nervous systems from overheating.

The first three recommendations are to drink, drink and drink (water and/or sports drinks, that is). Staying well hydrated on hot summer days is key. Avoid alcoholic, carbonated and caffeinated beverages, as these can increase the likelihood of dehydration and interfere with body temperature regulation. On days where heat and humidity are high, stay indoors in an air-conditioned or shaded, fan-cooled room as much as possible. If you exercise regularly and the outdoor temperature is above 80 degrees, try to exercise indoors with air conditioning or limit your outdoor fitness activities to the early morning or late afternoon during the cooler, shadier parts of the day.

If you do start to feel faint, nauseated or have a headache, these might be the first signs or symptoms of heat-related illness. Go indoors to an air conditioned building — or into the shade if AC isn't available — and drink a cool beverage. The objective is to avoid progressing to heat stroke, which requires a trip to the ER and hospitalization.

*— **Mark Melrose**, DO, is a board-certified emergency physician at Urgent Care Manhattan. E-mail him your questions at **askdrmark@metro.us**.*

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages.

How to protect your eyes this summer — and beyond

- What you can do now to stave off problems later
- An ophthalmologist's advice for choosing sunglasses

According to the 2012 update of the "Vision Problems in the U.S." report, a study released this month by Prevent Blindness America and the National Eye Institute, the number of those ages 40 and older with vision impairment and blindness has increased 23 percent since the year 2000. The study, conducted by researchers from Johns Hopkins University, provides prevalence rates and estimates cases of age-related eye conditions.

"It's all relative," says Dr. Robert Noecker of Ophthalmic Consultants in Connecticut. "The increase is also due to the population getting older and to the growing diabetes epidemic. If you live long enough, everyone is going to get cataracts."

"Most damage comes from UV light, and summertime increases the risk."
DR. NOECKER

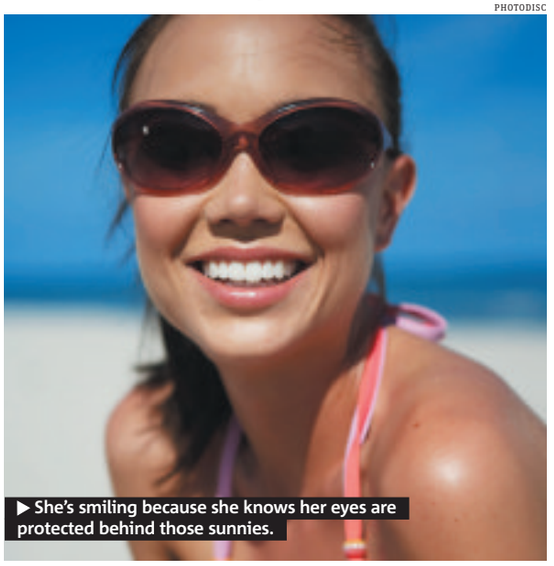
The trick is keeping eyes healthy for as long as possible.

"You can do a lot to delay the onset of cataracts and avoid macular degeneration and basal cell carcinoma growths on the eyelids," advises Dr. Noecker. "Most damage comes from UV light, and summertime increases the risk. Always wear sunglasses and add a hat, too."

Choosing the right sunglasses is important: "Choose large sunglasses that cover the eyeballs and skin around the eye. If you buy them at the drugstore, choose the ones that have UVA/UVB blocking stickers on them to make sure they have the correct protective coating. The tint of the lens is not so important; that's usually to do with fashion. Darker glasses are helpful for people who have sensitive eyes. It's the correct coating that's important."

LINDA CLARKE
letters@metro.us

PHOTODISC



▶ She's smiling because she knows her eyes are protected behind those sunnies.

The eyes have it

Dr. Noecker teaches us about unsightly common eye ailments.

- **Styes:** "They form when the oil glands on the edge of the eyelid clog or become infected. Styes are becoming more common due to the American or Western diet. Eating more saturated fats causes the oil to thicken and not flow."
- **Dry eyes:** "Eyes become drier with age when we produce less tears. But in the summer, eyes can dry out due to wind or dehydration. Also, if the oil glands aren't working properly, eyes dry because it's the oil spreading over the eye that keeps tears from evaporating."
- **Pink eye (conjunctivitis):** "This is a viral infection and is more common at certain times of the year, usually winter. It's extremely contagious because the virus can live on, say, a doorknob for up to five days: That's how it spreads through families and workplaces so easily. Hygiene is key."

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Health notes

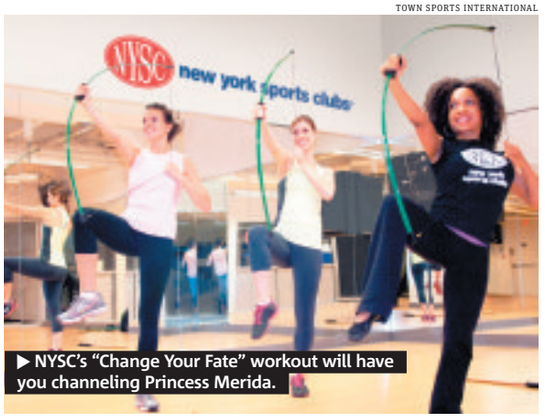
Nike's new shop

The 9,000-square-foot **Nike Running Flatiron**, the brand's largest running shop to date, is opening tomorrow on the corner of Fifth Ave. and W. 20th St. Stop by to get your gait digitally analyzed on an iPad, and sign up for the store's running club on Tuesdays at 6 p.m. When you're in need of new sneaks, drop off your old pair at the store; they'll be recycled into sport courts, bags, new shoes and more.

By the people, for the people

No money for a gym membership? That's OK. **The People's Bootcamp** has officially launched, offering pay-as-you-wish 45-minute classes in Central Park. Meet at the Grand Army Plaza (the statue of the guy on horseback across from The Plaza Hotel) on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 7:15 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Incentive: If you "Like" The People's Bootcamp on Facebook, you'll be entered in a drawing to win a case of rosé!

TOWN SPORTS INTERNATIONAL



▶ NYSC's "Change Your Fate" workout will have you channeling Princess Merida.

Free yoga class

Join **Honeydrop Beverages** for a free one-hour vinyasa class at 2:15 p.m. at Pure Yoga (203 E. 86th St.) this Saturday. Stick around after for honey-infused teas and beverages.

Lookin' good

If you get your blood pumping at **Chaise 23** this Saturday, one of our favorite little fitness studios in the city, stick around after class to receive a free airbrush tan by Infinity Sun. Reserve your spot anytime from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at **info@chaise23.com**.

Get your HIV test

Today is National HIV Testing Day. HIV tests are painless and, if you test positive, can add years to your life. Find a testing site near you at **HIVtest.cdc.gov.**

Juice for a day

If the idea of doing a weeklong cleanse kind of scares you, we understand — and so do the folks at **Cooler Cleanse**. They've just launched the Juice for a Day program, in which you replace your meals for 24 hours with six fresh-pressed juices to boost your energy and invigorate your mind. You can pick up your juices at any Juice Generation location, or visit **Juicegeneration.com** to order them online. The kit costs $60 and can be shipped nationwide.

'Brave' class

Those overachievers at **New York Sports Club** continue to come up with timely classes that literally keep us on our toes (their Hunger Games "Train Like a Tribute" workout comes to mind). Their latest is the "Change Your Fate" class, which is based on the No. 1 movie "Brave," and it's an adventurous mix of moves based on Merida's passions for archery, swordsmanship and horseback riding. The best news? The class is free for members and nonmembers through July. It's held at the these times and locations:

- ▶ Mondays at 5:30 p.m. – 62nd & Broadway NYSC
- ▶ Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. – 86th & Lexington NYSC
- ▶ Wednesdays at 5 p.m. – 38th & Broadway NYSC
- ▶ Fridays at 9:30 a.m. – 80th & Broadway NYSC

The Red Cross needs your help

A patient in the United States needs a blood transfusion approximately every two seconds, according to the **American Red Cross**. Help the organization out by donating blood or platelets — they're in desperate need, as they've received 50,000 fewer donations than expected this month. All blood types are needed, but especially O positive, O negative, B negative and A negative. Find a donation site at **Redcrossblood.org.**

Think twice about the 'Dirty Dozen'

According to the **Alliance for Food and Farming**, the Environmental Working Group's "Dirty Dozen" list of fruits and vegetables coated in pesticides is causing backlash amongst consumers frightened to chomp on their produce. But you shouldn't be too concerned, the organization says: Your pesticide intake is minimal. If you want to eliminate pesticide residue, the FDA recommends washing your produce in warm or cold tap water (no soap), and use a brush when necessary. ● MEREDITH ENGEL

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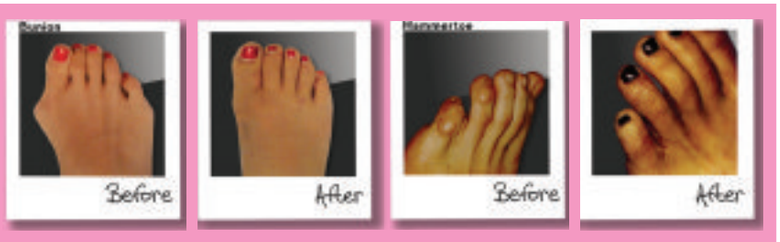

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Letters

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Re: Economy needs more attention

President Obama cannot fix the economy all by himself. Republicans need to wrap that around their heads. Radical conservatism is a bit of an oxymoron, no? Should Mitt Rom-No miraculously win the election, I'd expect to see a new medication hit the market called, "R-Me." Take two for relief of hidden agendas. Side effects can be loss of life, loss of limb, loss of any or all five senses, PTSD and a worsened economy. Before you take this medication, consult your Bush for directions.

DANIEL GREEN, VIA E-MAIL

The person who wrote this letter completely disregards the fact that the Republicans in Congress have shot down every attempt by Obama to jump-start the economy (Jobs Act). He also states that women should return to their "former duties" so men can fill those jobs. "Former duties"? That's Republican code for "barefoot and pregnant." A female republican voter is like a slave who fought for the confederacy.

ROBERT LAROSA, NEW YORK

Finally, someone has come up with a plan to rid this country of its economic ills! Getting rid of immigrants would provide jobs for Americans clamoring to pick fruits and vegetables for long hours and little pay. Housekeeping and child care jobs could be eliminated if only women were out of the workforce and back in the home where they belong. Finally, it is apparent that no one has tried hard enough to encourage the private sector to hire people instead of holding on to money and outsourcing jobs to other countries. Maybe we could try saying "pretty please with sugar on it."

LINDA WHITTAKER, VIA E-MAIL

Women should "return to their former duties"? If he knows how to fix the economy so easily, maybe he should run for president. He surely won't win with such ludicrous ideas.

ROCHELLE ELLIS, VIA E-MAIL

Bradley Manning worth the coverage

I'm writing to call on your paper for increased coverage of the Pfc. Bradley Manning's trial.

Manning, who has been accused of leaking the largest document dump in U.S. history to WikiLeaks, will be in Fort Meade for a pre-trial hearing on July 16 and currently faces 23 charges, including one of "aiding the enemy." If convicted, he faces a sentence of life imprisonment.

Despite more than 760 days in pretrial confinement, many media outlets have been too silent on Manning's case, allowing the government's mistreatment of him to continue in near-secrecy.

A reckless, opaque conviction for Pfc. Manning could have dire consequences for future whistleblowers, journalists and activists. Because of this, the media must do its part to engage the American public in a conversation about this trial and our government's behavior before it's too late.

I ask that you do your part and increase coverage of the Bradley Manning trial, beginning with his hearing on July 16.

CLAYTON FOSTER, VIA E-MAIL

E-mail your letters: letters@metro.us

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words.
Metro reserves the right to edit all letters.
Please include your name and contact information.

Horoscope

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** If you have any hope of resolving a domestic problem that arises, you must take a firm position and stand by it. Being wishy-washy would only worsen the situation.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** Being fair-minded and unbiased is required if you hope to win others over to your point of view. Trying to force the issue would have an opposite effect.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** Because you should be able to clearly perceive the difference between what is essential spending and what isn't, this is a good day to get a handle on your budget.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** An objective that is of utmost personal importance might not be so vital for some of the others involved. The only way you'll get what you want is to break away and work independently.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** Although you may appear to be in your own world, you'll be hard at work weighing and balancing critical issues that will make or break your plans.

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** This is not a good day to talk shop or to try to promote a special interest when in a social setting. Your friends are far more interested in having fun.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19**. Try as you might, it could be difficult for you to escape the scrutiny of others. Whether you like it or not, your public image is being assessed by some rather severe critics.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** You should trade on your past experiences instead of totally ignoring them. If you don't, you could be tempted to attempt something that didn't work out too well last time.

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** You should know that you would derive the greatest of pleasure from engaging in shared activities. If you decide to play a loner's role, this will be just another humdrum day.

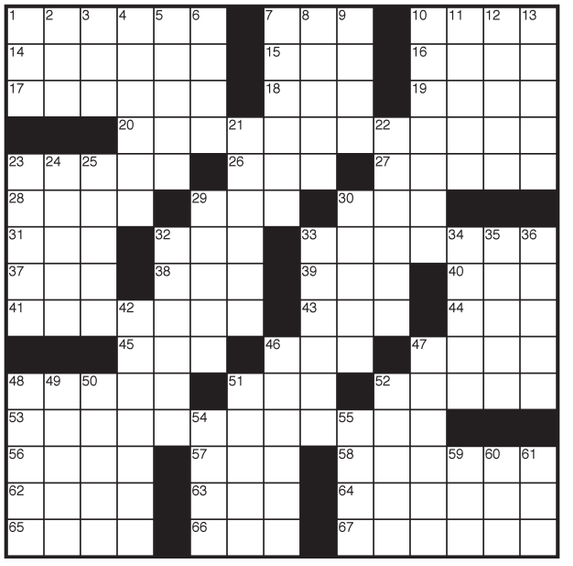
♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** Because the needs and requirements of those with whom you're involved are too restrictive, you may start to look for a way out. Try to do so as pleasantly as possible.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** Make sure you have the necessary tools, materials and time before tackling a big project. If any one of these things is missing, chances are the job will never be finished.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** Activities that include elements of friendly competition will be highly appealing to you, which is all well and good. However, if at all possible, keep wagers out of the picture.

BERNICE BEDE OSOL

Across
1 Vanquish
7 Jigger
10 Make haste slowly?
14 Loath
15 "So that's it!"
16 Orchid-loving Wolfe
17 Gather
18 Remind too often
19 Carnival
20 Leathery fruit
23 "Luck of the Draw" singer
26 Parisian street
27 Battery's "+" end
28 WWW addresses
29 Curly's friend
30 Baby beaver
31 52, for Caesar
32 Seed vessel
33 Fragrant firs
37 NASA counterpart
38 Caviar, actually
39 Had fries
40 Casual farewell
41 Cardinal
43 __ Beatty of films
44 Lillie or Arthur
45 Do something with
46 Family nickname
47 Crocus "bulb"
48 Pile up, as wealth
51 Helium or neon
52 Easy mark
53 Heavy rainstorms (2 wds.)
56 __ spumante
57 PM units
58 Said out loud
62 Rather you __ me
63 Mr. Vigoda
64 Chant
65 Bronte's Jane __
66 Stylish
67 Plumbiferous



Down
1 Family man
2 Night before
3 Had over for dinner
4 Spews lava
5 Wide cravat
6 Bristle with
7 Shoe part
8 Windy City airport
9 Attire for Cato
10 Nursery denizens
11 Groovy
12 Reacted to onions
13 Neighsayer?
21 Wore away
22 Fastened permanently
23 Pencil-box item
24 Crop up
25 Homer opus
29 Lone Ranger portrayer
30 Smith and Winslet
32 Prim and proper
33 Exile
34 Prior's superior
35 Fort __, Fla.
36 Wrinkled
42 Greyhound, e.g. (2 wds.)
46 Got fresh
47 Bungalow
48 Banded quartz
49 Sentimental
50 Bachelor's last stop
51 "Ninotchka" star
52 Opposite of supine
54 "Kapow!"
55 Black-hearted
59 New England catch
60 Pilot's dir.
61 Cave, perhaps

9							5	3
		5				6		
2				5	1			7
1	3			8	4		9	
	5			9			7	
	8		6	1			3	4
3			5	2				8
		8				9		
4	2							5

SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

9			7	6		5	4	
			4		2	6	8	
					1		7	
8			5				3	
		3				1		
	4				3			8
	2		3					
	6	1	2		4			
	9	8		7	5			3

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS: WWW.METRO.US/PUZZLES

Solution to Tuesday's crossword

P	U	P	A		N	I	E	C	E		G	A	L	A
E	T	A	L		E	A	R	L	E		I	C	A	N
G	A	I	L		O	N	E	A	L		F	L	I	T
S	H	R	I	M	P			N	E	P	T	U	N	E
			E	E	R		O	G	R	E				
W	I	L	D	W	E	S	T			A	T	L	A	S
O	L	E			N	U	T			R	O	A	S	T
M	O	N	S	T	E	R		R	O	S	E	T	T	A
A	N	D	R	E			A	T	V			E	R	G
N	A	S	A	L			L	E	A	P	F	R	O	G
				L	A	D	S		L	E	I			
V	A	N	D	Y	K	E			T	I	A	R	A	S
S	C	A	R		I	C	E	N	I		N	O	A	A
O	R	C	A		T	A	L	O	N		C	O	R	K
P	O	L	Y		A	L	I	V	E		E	K	E	S

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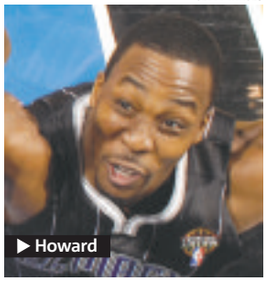


▶ Howard

Houston makes play for Howard trade

The Rockets and Timberwolves made a trade yesterday. And it was terrible news for the Brooklyn Nets.

Houston traded Chase Budinger to Minnesota for the No. 18 pick in tomorrow's NBA draft, giving the Rockets picks No. 14, No. 16 and No. 18 in the draft. They acquired pick No. 14 from the Knicks back in 2010 for the Tracy McGrady deal.

It's bad news for the Nets, because the move was clearly done with the intention of trading for Magic center Dwight Howard. Reports are Houston feels they can package the three picks — or maybe to move up for a higher one — to get Howard for at least the last year of his contract. ESPN reports they may also try to move Kyle Lowry to acquire a top 10 pick.

ON TV TOMORROW

2012 NBA draft
7 p.m., ESPN

The Nets are still hoping Howard, who has said he would like to play in Brooklyn, will be available in a trade. At the moment, however, they have few pieces to pull off a trade and must first convince Deron Williams to re-sign. ● MARK OSBORNE

Good day, bad day

Good day

It's hard to imagine anyone having a better day than Adam Oates did yesterday.

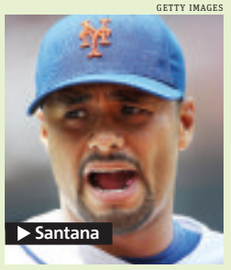
The former Red Wing, Bruin and Capital — among others — accepted the head coaching position with Washington early in the day. Then, later that afternoon, he was named as an inductee to the Hockey Hall of Fame.

Bad day

We're introducing politics into the bad day as we honor President Barack Obama.

The president's Kevin Youkilis joke bombed in front of an obviously partisan Boston crowd Monday night. Those were boos, Barack. It's OK, you're supposed to support the White Sox. Let them boo.

GETTY IMAGES



▶ Santana

Collins ready to ride with Santana

Mets manager Terry Collins gave his first in-depth comments on Johan Santana and his health post-no-hitter before last night's game in Chicago. And it was all good news.

"It eases my mind completely that he came out of it OK," Collins said. "I'm really happy for it. I'm happy that he got the no-hitter, but as we continue down this road, he's going to throw up a lot of zeroes. And he was only going to do that if he was healthy."

Of course, it's easier for Collins to say that now that Santana has two good starts under his belt since the June 1 no-no. Santana allowed 13 hits and 10 earned runs in two five-inning starts immediately following the no-hitter. And while he lost the series opener in Chicago, he has now thrown 12 innings with just two earned runs his last two times out.

Collins said there are no health restrictions on Santana either.

"My conscience is pretty clear we can ride him. As I said in spring training, 'If we get 28 starts out of him, we're going to be a pretty good club.'" ● METRO

Stewart earning his keep as Yanks' backup catcher

- Veteran catcher went from a high school shortstop to defensive whiz
- De facto personal backstop for Sabathia showing his value to Yankees

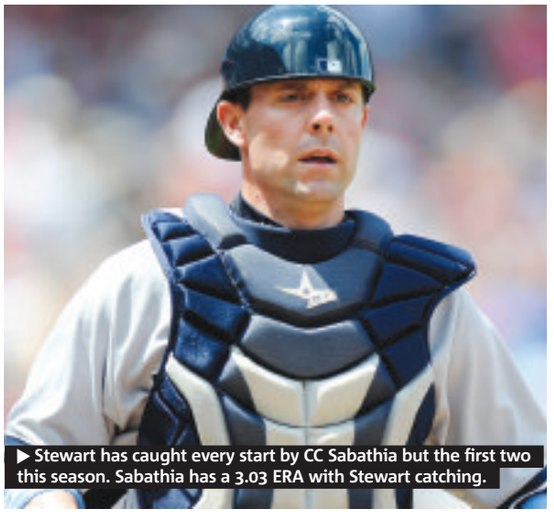
Ask Chris Stewart how he became a catcher and he might start off the answer by saying "that's a funny story."

It turns out he's right. Since he's 6-foot-4, catching is not necessarily the most natural position for someone of that height and until 11th grade at Canyon Springs High School in Moreno Valley, Calif., it was not for Stewart.

But when the regular catcher joined the cheerleading team and the backup got appendicitis, Stewart began putting his good hands and feet honed as a shortstop into becoming a full-time catcher.

"I was a shortstop until my junior year and then I started catching," Stewart said before making his 20th start last night. "One of the small things that goes into being a good shortstop [is] the hands and feet working together.

"Learning the mental part of the game took a while and it's just a matter of listening to all the coaching, all the ideas, watching video and trying to come up with hitter's tendencies and formulate a game plan. It takes a lot of studying, a lot of research [and] a lot of time."



▶ Stewart has caught every start by CC Sabathia but the first two this season. Sabathia has a 3.03 ERA with Stewart catching.

The life of a backup catcher is not glamorous. They often don't now when they're playing until the lineup is posted, but the preparation remains the same.

"I watch video and see if [the starting pitcher] has thrown against a team early on in the year or maybe last year and how he attacked their hitters and what kind of game plan he used," Stewart said. "If I don't have that, I just use maybe a pitcher similar to our guy who threw against their team recently to try and come up with a game plan in my mind to prepare myself to what we might be throwing to them."

Stewart, who's become somewhat of a personal catcher for CC Sabathia (though not named as such), was acquired from the Giants on the last day of spring training, mainly for his defense.

"Being sent back to New York isn't a bad thing either," he said. "I was happy to come back and help this team get back to the playoffs and go from there."

LARRY FLEISHER
sports@metro.us

Happy Birthday to the Captain

Joe Girardi has marveled at Derek Jeter's performance as he went from the age of 37 to 38 yesterday.

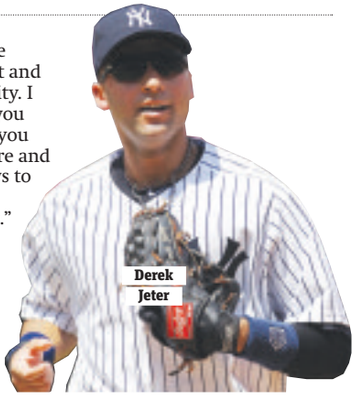
"To think that he's still doing it at that age is really, truly amazing," Girardi said last night. "I told him, 'At our age, Derek, we don't have to have birthdays anymore.'"

Girardi was referencing Jeter's defense and his batting average, which is at .304 through Monday. A month ago it was .342 and although Jeter is hitting .232 (22-for-95) this month, he is the oldest player currently hitting over .300.

"You have more experiences," Jeter said of differences between previous birthdays and now. "The more you play, the more experiences you have, the more you learn about the game, the more you learn about the game, the more you learn about yourself. That comes with age.

"I think when you're younger you just go out and basically get by on ability. I think as you get older you learn your body more, you learn your abilities more and you learn different ways to improve. I think that comes with experience."

"It's amazing when you think about it and the age we're getting to," the 40-year-old Andy Pettitte said. "It's amazing to see what he's been able to do." ● METRO/LF



Derek Jeter

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Nash hosts best soccer match in whole city

Point guard brings his prowess to pitch in annual charity match held in Chinatown Loves playing in city, but he's not talking about Knicks

The hottest pickup game in New York City is supposed to take place at famed Rucker Park, but there won't be a game that sizzles more than Steve Nash's "Showdown in Chinatown" tonight.

Now entering its fifth year, the "Showdown" brings together many of the top sports stars in the world not for a game of pickup basketball, but for soccer. Held at Sarah D. Roosevelt Park on Chrystie Street and Stanton Street, the event benefits The Steve Nash Foundation and features both soccer stars and Nash's NBA buddies playing in what he terms a "pro-amateurial" match.

"It's a concept we developed a few years ago with my friends Simone Sandri and Venanzio Ciampa. Lots of soccer players are NBA fans and vice-versa," Nash told Metro New York. "I play a lot of soccer in the summer in the New York parks and it just seemed natural to bring together these great athletes for what has become a unique sporting event."

Nash grew up playing and watching soccer (his father is an avid supporter of the England Premier League's Tottenham Hotspurs) and his brother Martin is a former professional player who made 38 appearances with the Canadian national team. The "Showdown" has become a part of New York City's sports calendar, with fans lining up outside the event hours beforehand to get a good view along the sidelines and more intrepid spectators climbing trees and the chain link fence to watch the stars play.

Four years ago, now Red Bulls forward Thierry Henry played in the game and while his in-season commitments in MLS will keep him from lacing up, he plans on showing up to the event.

"It's a good thing and at the end of the day Steve is doing a great thing in the community and I want to support that," Henry told Metro New York. "I won't play but I want to go there and show my face and support Steve doing something great. I enjoy it."

KRISTIAN DYER
sports@metro.us

BENNETT RAGLIN/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Nash, right, goes up for a header against 6-foot-11 goalkeeper — and Suns teammate — Marcin Gortat in last year's Showdown in Chinatown.

Attendees

The event kicks off at 6:30 at Sarah D. Roosevelt Park. Some of the stars expected to show include:

- **Salomon Kalou** (Chelsea FC)
- **Thierry Henry** (Red Bulls)
- **Maurice Edu** (USMNT)
- **Grant Hill** (Phoenix Suns)

Knicks turn other Cheek

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Cheek

Dominic Cheek wasn't even supposed to be at the Knicks' predraft workout last week, but his competitive nature wouldn't let him miss out on the chance of impressing the local team.

The former St. Anthony (Jersey City, N.J.) star got a phone call around 9 a.m. Thursday asking if he was available to work out for the Knicks, as a spot opened because former Georgetown forward Hollis Thompson was sidelined with a sports hernia.

Cheek, who averaged 12.5 points and 3.9 rebounds per game as a junior last year, said he was stunned and pleased when he got the call.

"It was a last-minute call," Cheek said. "The Knicks just called me and I just drove right up here. … I wanted to show them that I'm competitive, that I can knock down the jumpshot and I'm improving my ballhandling. And to be honest with you, I'm a great defensive player, too."

Although most scouts said Cheek needed another year of seasoning at Villanova, he insisted he's gotten solid reviews from teams like the Heat and 76ers.

He is represented by Happy Walters, who also represents Amar'e Stoudemire and Iman Shumpert. But Cheeks said he hasn't heard any promises from teams.

"It's definitely a dream come true," he said. "I live about 40 minutes away from New York and I would love to play for the Knicks."

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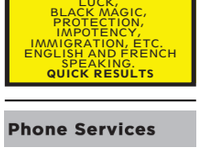

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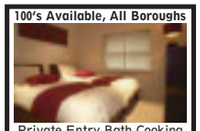

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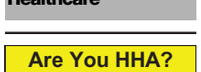

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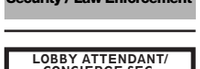

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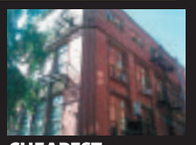
Market watch



CHEAPEST
$145K
19 W. 105th St.
The cheapest property listed this week is a pre-war studio at 19 W. 105th St. This co-op, with 12-foot ceilings and low maintenance of $410/month, is listed by Weichert Mazzeo for $145,000.

PRICIEST
$24.5M
452 Greenwich St.
The most expensive unit on the market this week is a four-story townhouse at 452 Greenwich St. This six-bedroom property, built in 1910, featuring its own private garage and elevator, is listed by Sotheby's for $24.5M.

STREETEASY

StreetEasy.com *is a New York-based real estate information portal that aggregates the most comprehensive set of sale and rental listings along with other useful info.*

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Worth the paper it's written on

You don't have to work at Dunder Mifflin to love paper Stationery makers from across the country gathered at this year's National Stationery Show in New York City to show off their wares From wedding invitations to greeting cards, here are some of the trends we saw at the show

Put something other than a bird on it

Kate & Birdie Paper Co., www.kateandbirdie.com

Bobbin, www.bobbindesigns.com

Figs and Ginger, www.figsandginger.com

Letterpress wrapping paper

Viva Greetings, www.vivagreetings.com

May Day Studio, www.maydaystudio.com

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Bushwick eyes a burgeoning future

Residential investment is starting to pick up, and 'there is likely more residential on the way' Other coming attractions in the Brooklyn nabe

If you're looking for rising New York City property values, following the rule of "follow the artists or follow the L train" takes you straight to Bushwick. Williamsburg's neighbor to the East has watched its less-than-stellar reputation rise over the past decade, as artists looking for cheap, large space found solace in the embrace of the area's commercial loft spaces. But this Brooklyn neighborhood may not follow the same path DUMBO and Williamsburg have to a residential boom; she's zoned for commercial, and it doesn't look like the city wants to change that.

The extensive warehouse spaces in Bushwick have seen an influx of art galleries and popups recently, sometimes as second locations of Manhattan locales such as Chelsea's Luhring Augustine, while also serving as a breeding ground for aspiring artists in shared spaces such as 3rd Ward on Morgan Avenue. The growing sense of community is obvious; the annual Bushwick Open Studios event, a weekend where the public can access various venues organized throughout the neighborhood, is a prime example of this neighborhood's unification through the industry that drove them there.

ANTHONY FALCO

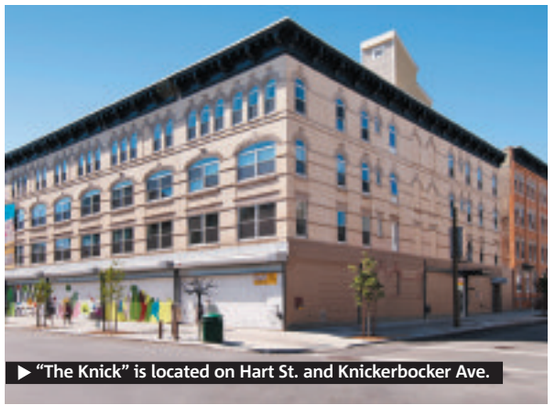
▶ Roberta's helped put Bushwick on the map.

All this has proven to be the formula for immediate and rapid residential real estate investment, but the transition hasn't occurred overnight. The Department of City Planning has not passed rezoning on the northwest section of the neighborhood, and as a result few new condo developments have hit the horizon.

Even if it may take more time, developers seem to have shared optimism regarding the upside of the area and the possibility of future zoning changes. "There is likely more residential on the way," explains Matthew Blesso, the founder and CEO of Blesso Properties. "Even in areas that are currently zoned Manufacturing, some owners are looking for a premium under the assumption that someday their properties will be rezoned." Those that have risen, such as The Hudson Companies' 49-unit "The Knick," are commanding prices around $500 per square foot, a strong value compared to their Easterly neighbors, and the median price for a one-bedroom in the neighborhood is $325,000, according to StreetEasy.com.

As permanent residents trickle in, Bushwick is giving the rest of the city more reasons to come visit. While it may take time before it gets SoHo-like crowds, it is proving that a search for the next "It" hood is never easier than just following the skinny jeans east on the L.

JARED KLEINSTEIN
letters@metro.us



▶ "The Knick" is located on Hart St. and Knickerbocker Ave.

Is Bushwick SoHot?

The comparisons between high-end, chic SoHo and gritty, trendy Bushwick may be few and far between beyond their artist communities. Nonetheless, both areas are celebrated for a landmark pizza shop.

SoHo has Lombardi's, America's first pizzeria, and Bushwick has Roberta's, arguably NYC's most trendy spot for a personal pie. To learn more about Bushwick's best pie place, head over to www.robertaspizza.com.

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Into the woods with Karim Rashid

The Danish design company BoConcept looks to the acclaimed designer for its newest housewares collection

KARL LOHNES
METRO WORLD NEWS IN CANADA

"When I think of Ottawa, Canada, I see many geographical similarities to Denmark," says Egyptian-born, Canada-raised award-winning designer Karim Rashid. He now lives and works out of New York City. "The landscape, trees and rivers are very similar and that's how my new collection, Ottawa, came to fruition for BoConcept." Rashid was schooled at Ottawa's Carleton University and has more than 3,000 designs in production for everyone from Alessi to Sony to Hugo Boss.

The upper-midpriced Ottawa collection was inspired by Rashid's love of nature, yet is far from rustic. Its streamlined, simple forms and exquisite quality make every piece an instant collectable. "People think that simple, modern furnishings are so easy to design and manufacture; therefore, it should have a low cost attached. Actually, the simpler the piece, the better quality materials and longer production time are needed to ensure everything is perfect," explains the designer. "By embellishing furnishings with fabric skirting, studs, trims and fringes we can hide a not-so-perfect-form. We hide nothing in this collection, and it works very well."

Rashid

The designer's signature thumbprint is like art for the floor. This wool & cotton rug is available in two sizes. Fingerprint rug, starts at $729

Metro's picks

"[It's] like a tree house being supported by trees." Sideboard options include various inserts to change the accents, from wood to bright colors, from $2,599

"[My inspiration was] a modern take on leaves and trees." Ottawa chair in leather, from $699

Ottawa vases, $79 for a set of four

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Classic Quality Homes, currently the Poconos' most popular home builder, has announced the availability of a new ranch-style model, offering the single-level convenience that so many new home buyers have asked for. The "Classic Ranch" is currently available for $192,500 complete with terms as low as $6,738 down and $1,577 per month including real estate taxes and insurance. Home includes 3 spacious bedrooms with a large master, 2 full baths, formal dining room, eat-in kitchen, large living room, rear sun deck and 2 Car Garage. In all, the Classic ranch contains 2,321 square feet of living space. For complete information on all Classic Quality Homes or to arrange an appointment

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Or visit the Classic website at www.classicqualityhomes.com

NEWLY CONSTRUCTED APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Richmond Hill Senior Living Residences is pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted for **56** affordable housing rental apartments now under construction at **127-03 Jamaica Avenue** in the **Richmond Hill** section of **Queens**. This building is being constructed through the Low-Income Housing Credit Program (LIHC) and NYS Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program (SLIHC) of the New York State Homes and Community Renewal. The size, rent and targeted income distribution for the 56 apartments are as follows:

# Apt. Available	Apartment Size	Household Size*	Monthly Rent**	Total Annual Income Range*** Minimum - Maximum
8	1 Bedroom	1 2	$667	$24,686 - $29,050 $24,686 - $33,200
48	1 Bedroom	1 2	$811	$29,623 - $34,860 $29,623 - $39,840

* Subject to occupancy criteria
** Includes gas for cooking
*** Income guidelines subject to change

Qualified Applicants will be required to meet income guidelines and additional selection criteria. To request an application, **mail a POSTCARD or a SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE to: Richmond Hill Senior Living, P.O. Box 20249, Floral Park, New York 11002. Completed applications must be returned by regular mail only (no priority, certified, registered, express or overnight mail will be accepted) to a post office box number that will be listed on the application, and must be postmarked by August 10, 2012.** Applications postmarked after August 10, 2012 will be set aside for possible future consideration. Applications will be selected by lottery; applicants who submit more than one application will be disqualified. Duplicated applications will not be accepted. ***The age eligibility requirement is 62 years of age at the time of application for one person.*** A general preference will be given to New York City residents. Units will be available pursuant to the Fair Housing Act's equal opportunity and accessibility requirements and the accessibility requirements of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

No Broker's Fee. No Application Fee.

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www.nyc.gov/housing
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NEWLY CONSTRUCTED APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Richmond Place is pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted for 92 affordable housing rental apartments now under construction at **129-11 Jamaica Avenue** in the Richmond Hill section of **Queens**. This building is being constructed through the Low-Income Affordable Marketplace Program (LAMP) of the New York City Housing Development Corporation and the Low Income Rental Program (LIRP) of the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development. The size, rent and targeted income distribution for the 92 apartments are as follows:

# Apt. Available	Apartment Size	Household Size*	Monthly Rent**	Total Annual Income Range*** Minimum - Maximum
9	Studio	1	$785	$28,869 - $34,860
22	1 Bedroom	1 2	$844	$30,926 - $34,860 $30,926 - $39,840
3	2 Bedroom	2 3 4	$835	$30,720 - $33,200 $30,720 - $37,350 $30,720 - $41,500
51	2 Bedroom	2 3 4	$1,022	$37,132 - $39,840 $37,132 - $44,820 $37,132 - $49,800
7	3 Bedroom	3 4 5 6	$1,175	$42,926 - $44,820 $42,926 - $49,800 $42,926 - $53,820 $42,926 - $57,780

* Subject to occupancy criteria
** Includes gas for cooking
*** Income guidelines subject to change

Qualified Applicants will be required to meet income guidelines and additional selection criteria. Households may elect to submit an application by one of two methods: **EITHER** online **OR** by mail. **To submit your application online now, please visit NYC Housing Connect at www.nyc.gov/housingconnect and select "Apply for Housing."** All online applications must be submitted by **August 6, 2012. To request an application by mail, please mail a self-addressed envelope to: Richmond Place, P.O. Box 20229, Floral Park, New York 11002.** All mailed applications must be returned by regular mail only (no priority, certified, registered, express, overnight or oversized mail will be accepted) to a post office box number that will be listed on the application, and must be postmarked by **August 6, 2012.** Applications will be selected by lottery; applicants who submit more than one application will be disqualified. Disqualified applications will not be accepted. A general preference will be given to New York City residents. Current and eligible residents of Queens Community Board 9 will receive preference for 50% of the units. Eligible households that include persons with mobility impairments will receive preference for 5% of the units; eligible persons that include persons with visual and/or hearing impairments will receive preference for 2% of the units; and eligible City of New York Municipal Employees will receive a 5% preference.

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